

1/23/78

Dear Walter,

On Jerry's quotes about 22 Files you asked my assessment?

Disinformation by any other name remains disinformation.

When it is by someone who has been a good friend to me it makes me unhappier. More so because this bullshit is supposed to be in a non-fiction format. Like Goebbels issued non-fiction. And this atrocity is in the spirit. The variation in degree may be enormous but in principle there is no difference.

Not one of those quotes is competent ~~to~~ to have an opinion on anything other than the writing.

It is not possible to render this in non-fiction form because it is totally fictitious. Not just the improvisations intended to make a thin disguise. I can go through it and pick up what he is supposedly basing on. In no case is there validity.

Of course if the work were not disinformation Bantam would not have printed it. It has yet to do a good book on the subject. Some were wretched, the closer to the representation of no fiction the more wretched.

It isn't worth spending any more time on. The more you sell the more Bantam again because the handmaiden of errant officialdom.

Jerry may well be persuaded. But then I wonder when we were good friends and he knows I'm a subject expert why he did not ask me anything about this. The answer can't be because I hold a contrary opinion. I'm forever helping reporters who disagree entirely with my beliefs. The answer is he saw what could be a good thing and having sold himself enough not to feel like a whore he did not want to risk confronting his conscience.

Our best. Hope you have a good year,

sincerely,